



# **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.T.E. 06-49

June 8, 2006

Investigation by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its own motion as to the propriety of the rates and charges by Blackstone Gas Company set forth in Tariffs M.D.T.E. Nos. 80B through 85B, filed with the Department on May 23, 2006, to become effective November 1, 2006.

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On May 23, 2006, Blackstone Gas Company ("Blackstone" or "Company") submitted its second annual rate adjustment filing, pursuant to the performance-based ratemaking plan approved by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") in Blackstone Gas Company, D.T.E. 04-79 (2004). The Department has docketed this matter as D.T.E. 06-49.

Blackstone proposes an increase in normalized revenues of \$25,280, which amounts to a base revenue increase of 3.1 percent. If the Department approves the Company's proposal, the proposed rates will result in:

- an increase of \$0.44 per month for residential gas non-heating customers using 20 ccf per month in the winter season; and,
- an increase of \$3.31 per month for residential gas heating customers using 150 ccf per month in the winter season.

Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. For specific impacts, please contact the Company as indicated below. The Company has requested that the proposed rate increase take effect on November 1, 2006.

Any person who wishes to submit written comments may do so by filing an original and eight (8) copies of such comments with: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, referencing docket number D.T.E. 06-49, no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Thursday, June 29, 2006. One copy must also be sent to Andrew J. Newman, Esq.,

7 Wells Avenue, Suite 23, Newton, Massachusetts 02459. Reply comments are due by the close of business on Friday, July 7, 2006.

All written comments should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to [dte.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dte.efiling@state.ma.us) and [andrea.saia@state.ma.us](mailto:andrea.saia@state.ma.us), or (2) on a 3.5" disk. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding, (D.T.E. 06-49), (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document (e.g., comments). The electronic filing should also include the name, title and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be created in either Corel WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, or as an Adobe-compatible PDF file. Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Web site: <http://www.mass.gov/dte/>.

A copy of Blackstone's petition is on file at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts for public view during business hours. Copies are also on file for public view at Blackstone Gas Company, 61 Main Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact counsel for the Company, Andrew J. Newman, Esq., at (617) 581-6744. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Andrea Saia, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at (617) 305-3500.